



General Assembly

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Seventy-third session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the seventy-third session

Observer status for the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in the General Assembly

Letter dated 23 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an item entitled "Observer status for the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in the General Assembly" in the agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

Established in Ulaanbaatar in July 2009 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Sukhbaatar Batbold, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to providing sustainable solutions to landlocked developing countries for their special needs and challenges for future development. Over the past years, the International Think Tank has grown steadily in both membership and international influence. As of June 2018, it had 12 member States from Asia, Africa, Europe and South America.

Since its founding, the International Think Tank has been working to raise awareness of and to promote the uniqueness and obstacles faced by landlocked developing countries through high-quality research and high-level workshops and seminars.

So far, the International Think Tank has achieved commendable progress, issued over 10 research papers and organized 30 international, regional and national workshops on issues related to landlocked developing countries. Since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the International Think Tank has also aligned its work priorities with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and produced initial results.

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, supported and mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/214, has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. It upholds the purposes and



principles of the Charter of the United Nations and stands for the authority and irreplaceable role of the United Nations in international affairs. The International Think Tank is currently a close partner with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Asian Development Bank and other regional and national research institutes and universities.

I believe that observer status in the General Assembly will help the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries to further align its work with the sustainable development endeavours of the United Nations and contribute to greater development partnerships to meet global challenges.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached herewith. The text of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and a list of countries that have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Agreement are available from https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=X-19&chapter=10&lang=en.

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Sukhbold **Sukhee**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mongolia
to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. Context

On 6 October 2017, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, which had been endorsed at the meeting of foreign ministers of landlocked developing countries in 2010 and deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, entered into force and was ratified by 10 countries, namely, Mongolia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Armenia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Nepal.

The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and is mandated to conduct research and studies for the particular needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. As of August 2018, membership had grown to 12 members, with the addition of Ethiopia (January 2018) and Bhutan (April 2018).

Landlocked developing countries have a long way to go to fully benefit from globalization and to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and structural transformation.

These goals are the priority of the International Think Tank; to achieve them, however, there is a pressing need for better integration of these issues into development strategies at the national, regional and global levels. Strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners, within the context of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors, are essential.

To deal with the constraints facing landlocked developing countries, the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2003. It adopted the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and the Almaty Declaration. In 2014, the Almaty Programme of Action was succeeded by the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, which was adopted as the outcome document of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

The International Think Tank is following the lead set by the Vienna Programme of Action as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The activities of the International Think Tank, such as the sharing of experiences, information exchange, consultation, brokering, and common positioning on pro-poor trade policies and transport and transit-related development strategies for the landlocked developing countries, aim to contribute to the main goal of the Vienna Programme of Action, which is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty, as well as raising human development.

2. Brief history of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries

The idea of establishing a think tank for landlocked developing countries originated at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty in 2003.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/180 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, the Conference addressed the transit-related, infrastructural and other problems facing landlocked developing countries. After the Conference, an inter-agency meeting endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action, which aimed to improve policies, enhance infrastructure, improve international access for goods from landlocked developing countries, generate additional technical assistance and monitor and follow up on measures taken.

The Almaty Programme of Action responded to the perceived need for more research and advocacy by mandating the launch of a think tank to study the issues surrounding trade in landlocked developing countries.

The idea of having a think tank for landlocked developing countries became an initiative when the President of Mongolia addressed a meeting of Heads of State of landlocked developing countries in Havana in 2006, stating that: "If we want to maximize the efficiency of our coordinated efforts, we should have an excellent analytical capacity. This, we believe, could be reached through establishing an international think tank in one of our capitals. Putting such a 'brain' in place, we could build optimal strategies on any matter of our interest and avoid duplication of our actions and endeavours."

A global event of landlocked developing countries and transit countries on trade and trade facilitation, held in Ulaanbaatar in 2007, conducted a midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action. At the conference, landlocked developing countries agreed to consider setting up an international think tank which could be located in Ulaanbaatar. For this purpose, landlocked developing countries urged international organizations and donor countries to assist them in achieving this endeavour.

In 2007, the Landlocked Developing Countries' Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Trade Facilitation adopted the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, and in 2009, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 64/214, in which it welcomed the establishment of the international think tank in Ulaanbaatar to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

In April 2009, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted its resolution 65/6, entitled "Support for the establishment of an international think tank of landlocked developing countries". In the resolution, the Commission invited Governments, donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies and other agencies to support the establishment of the think tank in Ulaanbaatar; requested technical support from the Executive Secretary; and called upon the Executive Secretary to designate a focal point to provide support for the proposal.

In July 2009, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries was officially launched in Ulaanbaatar by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Sukhbaatar Batbold.

The Government of Mongolia, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Office of Legal Affairs supported the group of landlocked developing countries to elaborate the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries. The Agreement was endorsed at the meeting of foreign ministers of landlocked developing countries in 2010. The Agreement entered into force on 6 October 2017 following the accession of Nepal on 7 August 2017, which became the tenth member State of the International Think Tank. According to the Agreement, the Agreement shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Vienna, Austria, from 3 to 5 November 2014 and adopted the Vienna Declaration and Vienna Programme of Action for the next decade, which highlighted the importance of the International Think Tank and its role in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and encouraged all stakeholders to support and utilize the International Think Tank.

3. Activity of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries

Today, the International Think Tank is actively working for the special needs and challenges of the landlocked developing countries, producing high-quality research and organizing seminars and workshops in order to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts under South-South cooperation for the full and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The International Think Tank has done some substantive work and published around 10 publications that are important to all landlocked developing countries, including a handbook on multilateral trade negotiations; a study on bilateral transit and transportation agreements of landlocked developing countries; a report on implications for landlocked developing countries of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation; and research reports on connectivity issues in landlocked developing countries, exploring the potential of trade connectivity, transportation connectivity and information and communications technology development in landlocked developing countries.

On 11 and 12 June 2018, the International Think Tank held its inaugural meeting, with the support of the Government of Mongolia and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The meeting marked the historic inauguration of the International Think Tank and facilitated the sharing of information and experiences through interactive discussions among government officials of landlocked developing countries, donor countries and international experts during thematic sessions. It included a high-level opening session, a high-level press conference and thematic discussions of priority issues for landlocked developing countries and the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the years of its development, the International Think Tank has attracted worldwide attention. It is currently a close partner with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the World Trade Organization, the

World Intellectual Property Organization, the Asian Development Bank and other international, regional and national research institutes and universities.

With the concerted efforts of its member States, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries is evolving into a strong organization with world class capacity that is committed to coordinating voices and efforts on the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries from a growing global network of members and partners to better serve its mission. Permanent observer status in the General Assembly would help it to engage more efficiently on the international stage to facilitate the further strengthening of the capacities of landlocked developing countries and assist in the formulation of joint platforms and common positions for concerted actions, to encourage more countries to support landlocked developing countries, to help landlocked developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to contribute more to building sustainable solutions to the challenges of future development.

Annex II**Draft resolution****Observer status for the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in the General Assembly**

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.

**General Assembly**

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29 August 2018

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Seventy-third session**Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item in the agenda of the seventy-third session****The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia****Letter dated 24 August 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion, in the agenda of the seventy-third session, of an additional sub-item entitled "The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia" under agenda item 20, entitled "Sustainable development".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum in support of this request (see annex I) and a draft resolution (see annex II) are attached hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Mirgul Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations



Annex I**Explanatory memorandum**

From the 1940s to the 1970s, the Central Asian region was the centre of uranium ore extraction and processing in the former Soviet Union, a situation that generated a significant accumulation of uranium production waste. In the 1990s and at the beginning of the twenty-first century, preventive and emergency repair work at uranium production facilities was not done on a sufficient scale, owing to a lack of funding; as a result, most of those facilities were exposed to weathering processes, which have now become the cause of environmental problems in the region.

The uranium industry was under centralized State control. The flow of information on uranium production was strictly controlled from the top down by the relevant bodies of the Soviet Union's Ministry of Medium Machine-Building Industry. Companies were secure facilities, extraction companies did not keep archival information on extraction and processing technologies and there was no horizontal data-sharing among the different industrial plants.

All organizations in the sector applied identical regulatory standards (safety standards) to control irradiation and radioactive contamination at uranium ore extraction and processing sites, thereby reducing the administrative burden imposed. Radiation safety standards were comparable to similar standards in Europe and the United States of America in the 1960s and 1970s. A bonus system provided many incentives to enhance production indicators, however, insufficient attention was paid to environmental safety and health issues.

In order to address the problems caused by the legacy of industrial uranium extraction and processing practices in the Central Asian States, the historical features of the uranium industry's development in the region should be considered, as well as the prevailing conditions in the Central Asian Republics since their independence.

During the transition period, with its economic, political and social problems, the technical conditions for radioactive waste management deteriorated, which increased the risk of possible accidents. There is a real danger of pollution of the groundwater and rivers of the water basin throughout Central Asia, with major consequences not only for millions of people and the environment, but also for the whole sustainable development process in the countries of the region. It could take several decades and significant financial resources to mitigate the consequences of such accidents and disasters. At the present time the financial and technical capabilities are not sufficient to ensure the proper maintenance and remediation of radioactive and toxic storage facilities and the rehabilitation of contaminated areas.

In this connection, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is making an active multilateral effort to prevent the radiation threat from uranium tailings ponds. Alerting the international community, financial institutions and development partners to the challenges associated with the uranium legacy in Central Asia has been the basis for the pooling of efforts with a view to reducing the risk to people and the environment of exposure to radioactive waste, strengthening the sustainable development of countries in the Central Asian region and mobilizing donor assistance from international organizations and private business.

In their speeches to the General Assembly in September 2010, 2012 and 2017, presidents of the Kyrgyz Republic repeatedly identified the problems related to the uranium legacy sites as among the priority issues to be solved. A special resolution on the problems of the uranium legacy in Central Asia, resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia", was adopted in 2013. This resolution enabled significant progress to be made

in the technical preparations for the remediation of the closed uranium mining sites and environmental impact studies to be carried out, including with regard to the establishment of specific financing mechanisms and structured dialogues with the local people of Central Asia directly involved in this matter.

In 2017, the Kyrgyz Republic launched an initiative to update resolution 68/218 in order to stress the importance of international solidarity, solve the aforementioned problems and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

A number of international high-level forums on the problem of uranium tailings in Central Asia were held at the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic in April 2009 in Bishkek, in June 2009 in Geneva, in October 2012 in Bishkek and in May 2018 in Bishkek. At the forums, the need for a coordinated solution, including financing to address this acute regional problem, was stressed. In particular, participants from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the United Nations, the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Eurasian Economic Community, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe supported joint declarations expressing the necessity for coordinated practical measures at the national, regional and international levels.

Significant progress has been achieved in that regard in recent years. In particular, environmental impact assessment studies have been conducted, and a specific financing tool, an EBRD fund, has been established in order to accumulate financial resources effectively. Moreover, close cooperation with IAEA has led to the development of a strategic master plan for the remediation of uranium legacy facilities in Central Asia, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as national development strategies.

Clearly, only under the condition of targeted and coordinated assistance from the international community will it be possible to solve the set of problems of uranium legacy in the region. The Kyrgyz Republic hopes that, as a result of the increased attention to, and interest in, these issues on the part of the United Nations, IAEA and the international community, the environmental risk at the national and regional levels and the risk of a humanitarian crisis will be prevented, the sustainable development of the countries of the Central Asian region will be promoted and the risk of the utilization of radioactive waste for extremism and terrorism will be eliminated.

On the basis of the aforementioned developments, the Kyrgyz Republic has prepared a draft update of General Assembly resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia".

Annex II

Draft resolution

The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 68/218 of 20 December 2013,

Taking into account the outcome of the high-level international forum entitled "Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Local Problems, Regional Consequences, Global Solutions", held in Geneva on 29 June 2009,

Taking into account also the outcome of the international conference entitled "Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Joint Efforts in Risk Reduction", held in Bishkek on 24 and 25 October 2012,

Taking into account further the outcome of the international conference entitled "Uranium tailings in Central Asia: Problems and Solutions", held in Dushanbe from 20 to 22 November 2012,

Taking into account the outcome of the shared high-level events, initiated by the Kyrgyz Republic on the margins of the General Assembly sessions, dedicated to the dangers associated with the former uranium mining activities in Central Asia, held in New York on 20 September 2017,

Taking into account also the ongoing efforts of Central Asian States towards the rehabilitation of former uranium facilities in Central Asia,

Taking into account further the role of the international donor community in providing support to the Central Asian States for addressing these problems at the bilateral and multilateral levels,

Taking into account the necessity for a strategic and coordinated approach in the preparation and implementation of programmes, with a view to solving the problems associated with uranium tailings in Central Asia,

Taking into account also the efforts towards the remediation of uranium tailings in Central Asia and the implementation of projects carried out through the international target programme of the Commonwealth of Independent States, entitled "Remediation of the territories of States affected by uranium mining industries" and projects of the European Commission on conducting an integrated environmental impact assessment and feasibility study for the environmental remediation of the uranium legacy sites of Min-Kush and Shekaftar, Kyrgyzstan, and Degmay and Taboshar, Tajikistan, as well as promising projects planned to be implemented within the framework of the environmental remediation account of uranium legacy sites production,

Noting the importance of the strategic master plan for environmental rehabilitation at the sites of former uranium facilities in Central Asia, developed by the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and approved by the competent authorities of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2017,

Noting also that the competent authorities of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Commission and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which signed the foreword to the strategic master plan on 19 September 2017, will support

and promote a coordinated approach to remediation with a view to achieving sustainable and safe results of these activities in Central Asia,

Noting further that many tailings ponds are located in seismically active areas close to population centres and the banks of major rivers in the region and are subject to the threat of natural disasters,

Reaffirming the human rights to life, to an adequate standard of living and to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and stressing in this regard the need to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters in the areas around uranium waste burial sites and tailings ponds in order to avoid loss of human life, as well as immediate and long-term negative consequences for human health,

Noting the need to inform the public in a timely manner when conducting work on the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia,

Considering that, despite the renewed efforts made by the States of Central Asia at the national level and despite the continued support of international programmes and projects to remediate former uranium mines and tailings ponds, a number of States continue to have serious social, economic and environmental problems associated with former uranium mines and tailings ponds,

Striving to contribute to strengthening the security and safety of radioactive materials,

Expressing gratitude to donor countries, in particular Czechia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America, and to international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and others, which provided and are providing assistance in addressing the problems of uranium tailings in the Central Asian region,

Stressing the need for a coordinated approach in the rehabilitation of former uranium production facilities, particularly in Central Asia, and welcoming the multilateral initiatives undertaken by the international community to pool resources and identify ways of providing assistance to address the problems associated with uranium tailings ponds in the Central Asian region,

Stressing also the importance of regional cooperation for successful implementation of environmental rehabilitation in Central Asia in order, inter alia, to increase competence, exchange information and use best practices and lessons learned in the management of radioactively contaminated areas in Central Asia and other regions, including through relevant training programmes, and to use the experience gained, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, in addressing the human factor involved in preparedness for accidents and emergency situations on sites of uranium legacy with potential transboundary effects and in recovering from them,

Taking into account that the Governments and populations of the States of Central Asia are aware of the threat of possible natural or man-made disasters and their global consequences for the lives and the health of a large number of people and for the environment,

Taking into account also the rationale of periodically amending the resolution entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia", with a view to updating it,

1. *Notes* the importance of remediating areas affected by former uranium extraction plants;

2. *Recognizes* the need to devise and promote effective programmes and projects for the responsible and safe management of radioactive and toxic waste in Central Asia;

3. *Also recognizes* the continuing role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia, and emphasizes the importance of adopting preventive and other measures to resolve the problem of radioactive and toxic waste and to remediate the polluted areas in accordance with the highest safety standards and best global practices;

4. *Notes* the recent initiatives taken to strengthen the preparation and implementation of rehabilitation programmes on the basis of the identification of priority areas;

5. *Calls again upon* the international community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ponds, and emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation in the following priority areas: improvement of the legislative framework in accordance with international standards; management and maintenance at safe levels of uranium and other radioactive and toxic tailings; remediation of tailings ponds and development and implementation of special programmes and projects to improve the monitoring of its safety; raising public awareness; adoption of measures to prevent people from gaining access to polluted materials; and implementation of socioeconomic, health and humanitarian measures to enhance the quality and standard of living of the population in regions where tailings ponds are located;

6. *Notes:*

(a) The importance of the strategic master plan, developed by the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites of the International Atomic Energy Agency and approved by the States of Central Asia, designed to harmonize projects and demonstrate to the international community the availability of a reliable and jointly developed approach to the implementation of rehabilitation programmes in all the Central Asian countries and recent initiatives taken to strengthen preparation and implementation of such programmes on the basis of identified priority areas;

(b) The practical implementation, begun in 2013, of the international target programme of the Commonwealth of Independent States, entitled "Remediation of the territories of States affected by uranium mining industries", which is an integral part of the strategic master plan;

(c) The need to develop strategies in order to inform the public and other stakeholders of rehabilitation programmes in all States of Central Asia;

7. *Expresses support* for the efforts made by the States of Central Asia in devising and implementing their country programmes, including in mobilizing domestic resources, and encourages the States of the region to hold further bilateral and multilateral negotiations, in accordance with the adopted strategic approach, to avert the radiation threat in Central Asia.